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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/082,798	02/25/2002	Phillip R. Sommer	IPHO/0005.04	2047
25223	7590	02/06/2004	EXAMINER	
WHITEFORD, TAYLOR & PRESTON, LLP ATTN: GREGORY M STONE SEVEN SAINT PAUL STREET BALTIMORE, MD 21202-1626			DOAN, JENNIFER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2874	

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/082,798

Applicant(s)

SOMMER ET AL.

Examiner

Jennifer Doan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13 and 21-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 14-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-8, 19 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 0203.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

This application is a continuation of 10/038,093, filed on January 4, 2002, now U.S. Patent 6,628,886.

Drawings

1. The drawings, filed on 02/25/2002, are accepted.

Specification

2. Applicants' cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicants may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lamarche et al. (U.S. Patent 4,418,855).

Lamarche et al. disclose (in figures 1-6) a method and an apparatus of a fiber preparation to remove an outer protective coating from a fiber optic cable to expose a fiber cladding and core comprising a fiber optic cable cutting tool (10) to cut an optical fiber (F); a fiber optic cable stripping tool (2) coupled to the cutting tool (10) to remove a

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portion of the fiber optic cladding and core (column 3, lines 61- 68) having a first and second clamp members to clamp the outer protective coating of the fiber optic cable (column 6, lines 42-44); and a fiber gripper to grip the fiber optic cable to expose and position a segment of the fiber optic cable in a processing position (column 5, line 57- column 6, line 50).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4-8, 19 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9-13 and 21-28 are allowed.

The prior art fails to disclose or reasonably suggest a fiber preparation apparatus to remove an outer protective coating from a fiber optic cable to expose a fiber cladding and core comprising first and second clamps having first and second heating elements as recited in claim 4; wherein the fiber stripping tool includes at least one heated clamp to clamp the fiber optic cable and heat the outer protective coating as recited in claims 5 and 20; a heated fiber stripping tool to melt and remove the outer protective coating to expose a portion of the cladding and core as recited in claims 9 and 19; further the stripping tool includes a body having a first clamping member spaced from and opposing a second clamping member; and further wherein the first and second clamping members are adapted to move between a plurality of fiber clamping positions about the segment of the optic cable as recited in claim 21.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Nied et al. (U.S. Patent 4,906,812) disclose an apparatus for joining materials using a laser beam. Mansfield (U.S. Patent 5,295,421) discloses a blade for fiber stripping. And Shustack (U.S. Patent 6,014,488) discloses radiation-curable primary coatings are stripped from the optical fiber.
7. The prior art documents submitted by applicant in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on 02/25/2003, have all been considered and made of record (note the attached copy of form PTO-1449).
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer Doan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2346. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 6:00am to 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Jennifer Doan

JD

January 7, 2004

Akmal
AKM ENAYET ULLAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER